

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Office of the Inspector General

Charles C. Maddox, Esq.
Inspector General



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Thursday, October 10, 2002

For Information Contact
Gloria Johnson (202) 727-2540

Certified Nursing Assistant Sentenced for the Drowning of A Nursing Home Resident and Assaulting Another Resident

Washington, D.C. - Inspector General Charles C. Maddox and United States Attorney Roscoe C. Howard, Jr., announced today that Defendant Keisha Holmes of Washington, D.C., was sentenced in D.C. Superior Court on two criminal counts - attempted voluntary manslaughter and simple assault. The Honorable Wendell P. Gardner, Jr., imposed a sentence of 6-18 months incarceration on the manslaughter charge, with all but 90 days suspended. On the assault count, the defendant was sentenced to 180 days incarceration, with all but 60 days suspended. Each sentence was run concurrently, and Holmes also received 2 years of probation.

Holmes, a certified nursing assistant pled guilty on August 2, 2002, for her actions, which resulted in the drowning death of a resident at a nursing home on January 10, 2000, and a later assault at a second nursing home. Ms. Holmes was responsible for the care of Augusta Haddocks, an 89-year-old resident at Carroll Manor Nursing and Rehabilitation Center. Holmes placed Ms. Haddocks in a tub of running water and left the room, closing the door behind her. After leaving Ms. Haddocks alone, Holmes went to another wing of the nursing home where, among other things, she brushed another resident's hair. Staff members at the nursing home were alerted to the problem in the tub room only after water seeped out from the closed door. Despite emergency efforts, Ms. Haddocks drowned. After her termination at Carroll Manor, Holmes worked at Washington Nursing Facility, where on August 18, 2000, she punched Estelle Humphrey, an 89-year-old resident.

The case was handled jointly by the Office of the Inspector General's Medicaid Fraud Control Unit (MFCU) and the US Attorney's Office. The MFCU, which was created in March 2000, handled this case as part of an effort called the Guardian Angel Project (GAP). GAP is a comprehensive program designed to deter and, when appropriate, punish health care providers who intentionally abuse or neglect vulnerable patients under their care. Among the institutions covered by GAP are nursing homes, group homes for the mentally retarded, and facilities for the mentally ill. These institutions are a main focus of the MFCU's outreach and education efforts. MFCU investigators and attorneys make presentations to industry and professional groups covering topics such as detecting abuse, prompt and accurate reporting of abuse and the most effective ways to work with law enforcement agencies. GAP also emphasizes outreach and education efforts aimed at senior citizen groups, consumer groups and ombudsmen for the elderly.

The case was jointly prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Elisa Poteat and Special Assistant United States Attorney Alexis Taylor.